BRITISH COLUMBIA | BCStats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca Issue: 13-25 June 24th, 2013

- **The Consumer Price Index in B.C. fell 0.6% in May**
- **Retail sales in B.C. contracted 0.7% in April**
- **The number of E.I. beneficiaries in B.C. fell 2.8% in April**

Prices

- **The Consumer Price Index (CPI) in B.C. fell for the second month in a row in May (-0.6%).** Restaurant food prices continued to drop (-4.5%) following the return to the Provincial Sales Tax (PST). Following two months of declines, rising energy prices (+1.0%) served to partially offset price contractions in five major components of the CPI.

  Food prices (-0.4%) were down, though grocery prices (+1.5%) rose, with consumers paying more for meat (+1.2%), fresh fruit (+5.4%) and vegetables (+9.9%), and dairy products & eggs (+1.2%). Fish & other seafood (-0.3%) prices fell for the second month in a row.

  Shelter costs (-0.9%) continued to fall, as prices associated with owned accommodation (-2.2%) maintained a downward trend, while rented accommodation costs edged up a further 1.2%. Household operations & furnishings (+0.6%) prices were propelled higher by costs related to communications (+2.1%), household chemical products (+2.4%), and furnishings (+0.4%), while household appliance prices dropped 1.5%.

  Clothing and footwear prices were unchanged in May, a result of clothing (-1.2%) and footwear (+1.2%) prices moving in opposite directions. Health and personal care costs took a dip (-1.8%), driven by lower medicinal and pharmaceutical prices (-5.6%).

  Following two months of declines, transportation costs in B.C. increased 0.1% compared to May 2012, with gas (+1.4%) and public transportation (+0.2%) prices both on the rise. Intercity transportation (-0.8%) costs fell for the fifth straight month. Recreation, education, & reading (-1.8%) prices dropped, as recreation (-5.8%) and home entertainment equipment (-10.3%) costs contracted. Meanwhile, consumers continued to pay more for education & reading (+1.2%).

- **Nationwide, the inflation rate was 0.7%. Alberta (+2.3%) saw the highest year-over-year increase in consumer prices, followed by Manitoba (+1.8%).** New Brunswick (-0.1%) was the only province apart from B.C. (-0.6%) to record a dip in the CPI. Within B.C., prices fell at a slightly faster pace in Victoria (-0.9%) than in Vancouver (-0.4%).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

The Economy

- **Retailers in British Columbia saw receipts fall 0.7% (*seasonally adjusted*) lower in April, with five of the eleven sub-sectors recording slowdowns.** The dip follows a 1.4% increase recorded in March.

  Nationally, retail sales inched up 0.1% in April, largely driven by revenues of motor vehicle and parts dealers (+1.4%), though lower sales at gas stations (-2.9%) dampened the overall increase. Receipts increased the most in Nova Scotia (+2.3%), Saskatchewan (+1.8%), and Alberta (+1.7%), but fell in Quebec (-0.7%), B.C. (-0.7%), and Ontario (-0.4%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats*

- **Wholesale sales in British Columbia rose 0.2% (*seasonally adjusted*) in April.** Wholesalers of new motor vehicle parts (+4.5%), motor vehicles (+3.1%), and food, beverage & tobacco products (+0.2%) posted increases, offsetting flagging sales in machinery, equipment & supplies

Did you know...

Two out of ten British Columbian drivers say that they fully rely on a GPS to get them to their destination when embarking on a summer road trip. *Data source: Ipsos Reid*

(-2.0%), building material & supplies (-0.4%), and personal & household goods (-0.3%).

At the national level, wholesale sales were up 0.2% in April, primarily due to higher revenues in the computer & communications equipment and supplies industry (+10.4%). New Brunswick (+5.1%) and Alberta (+1.4%) led the nation, while Saskatchewan (-3.5%) and Manitoba (-2.0%) recorded lower sales.

Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats

- **Investment in new housing construction edged up 0.1% (*unadjusted, current prices*) in April, compared to the same month of the previous year.** Investment in double (+8.5%) and apartment (+7.3%) dwellings supported the growth, as declines in single (-2.6%) and row (-16.6%) housing expenditure contracted. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Tourism

- **Visitor entries to Canada via British Columbia fell 0.7% (*seasonally adjusted*) in April, marking the third month of decline.** Both same-day (-1.3%) and overnight (-1.1%) visits from the U.S. (-1.2%) were down, while visits from the rest of the world (+0.7%) rose due to increased traffic from Europe (+2.9%) following a three months of contraction. Visitor entries from Asia (-0.4%) fell for the second month in a row, and travel from other parts of the world dipped slightly (-0.1%). The number of Canadians returning from abroad continued to fall (-4.5%), with re-entries from the U.S. (-4.8%) and the rest of the world (-0.1%) both on the decline.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Labour

- **There were 51,680 (*seasonally adjusted*) people receiving Employment Insurance (E.I.) benefits in British Columbia in April, down 2.8% from the previous month.** The sharpest decline (-4.3%) was recorded in the group of beneficiaries aged 15 to 24 years old. Males account for 57% of total beneficiaries. The number of males (-4.0%) receiving benefits fell at a quicker pace than female (-1.2%) recipients.

Nationally, the number of regular E.I. beneficiaries dipped 0.5%, driven by a decline in Quebec (-2.0%). The number of recipients in Alberta was unchanged and increased slightly in Ontario (+0.2%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Drinking & Driving

- **Under British Columbia's stricter drinking and driving laws, there were 2,890 alcohol-related criminal driving charges in the period between October 1st 2010 and September 30th 2011, down 68.2% compared to the same period of the previous year.** The grand total of all drivers charged/prohibited dropped 22.0% in the 2010/2011 period, and a further 18.4% in 2011/2012, despite a temporary reversion to some of the previous sanctions for nearly seven months of the period. The study, by the Centre for Addictions Research of BC, found that alcohol-related crashes were down significantly following the new legislation. Alcohol-related fatal collusions dropped by approximately 44 incidents per year, while there were 487 fewer alcohol-related injury collisions and 508 fewer alcohol-related incidents that were described as property damage only.

Data Source: Centre for Addictions Research of BC: The impact on alcohol-related collisions of the partial decriminalization of impaired driving in British Columbia, Canada, analysed

The Nation

- **Canadians purchased $2.8 billion in foreign securities in April, marking the third consecutive month of increases.** April's investment activity brought year-to-date cumulative transactions to a total of $3.8 billion.

Foreign investment in Canadian securities totalled $14.9 billion. Government money market instruments ($3.4 billion) and private corporate bonds ($6.5 billion) were the largest drivers, though corporate money market instruments ($1.6 billion) and government bonds ($1.3 billion) were also in demand. Foreign investment in Canadian equity and investment fund shares totalled $2.2 billion. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

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For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Apr 1/2013	% change on one year ago
BC	4,650.0	0.9
Canada	35,141.5	1.1
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 19)		
(BC - at market prices)	2011	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	217,749	4.5
GDP *($ 2007 millions)*	206,180	2.8
GDP *($ 2007 per Capita)*	45,083	1.8
Household Sector Disposable Income *($ 2007 per Capita)*	26,788	0.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Mar 2013	3,360	1.2
Merchandise Exports - Mar 2013	3,001	12.9
Retail Sales - Mar 2013	5,156	0.9
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Apr 2013)	one year ago	% change
BC	-0.8	0.6
Vancouver	-0.8	0.8
Victoria	-1.3	0.4
Canada	0.4	1.0
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Apr 2013	prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	9.5	
Labour Force - BC	2,471.0	-0.2
Employed - BC	2,312.1	0.4
Unemployed - BC	158.8	-8.3
		Mar 2013
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	6.4	7.0
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.2	7.2
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jun 19/2013	Jun 20/2012
Prime Business Rate	3.00	3.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.14	3.20
- 5 year	5.14	5.24
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jun 19/2013	Jun 20/2012
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.0187	1.0226
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.9734	0.9812
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Apr 2013	one year ago
BC	877.05	3.9
Canada	885.20	3.0

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

2011 Census Profiles

We have added files for Health geographies, School Districts, College Regions and Ministry of Children and Family Development Regions. The file layout matches the other 2011 Profiles, simplifying comparisons to many areas . See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Provincial Electoral District Profiles 2011

Posted to our Open Data page is a 2011 Census Profile for the Provincial Electoral Districts. The file layout matches the other 2011 Profiles, simplifying comparisons to many areas . See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Census/OpenData.aspx

Population Estimates by Age and Sex 2012

Updated population estimates by age and sex for B.C. sub-provincial regions are now available. . . See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Demography/PopulationEstimates.aspx

B.C. Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector

The 2012 edition of the profile of British Columbia's fisheries and aquaculture sector is now available. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/AboutUs/News/13-01-29/British_Columbia_s_Fisheries_and_Aquaculture_Sector.aspx

Municipal Population Estimates 2012

Population estimates for B.C. municipalities and regional districts as of July 1, 2012 are now available. See more:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/StatisticsBySubject/Demography/PopulationEstimates.aspx

Released last week by BC Stats

- Consumer Price Index (CPI)

To Release this week

- Business Indicators
- Tourism Sector Monitor

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